

FORT MYER MILITARY COMMUNITY RETIREE COUNCIL
C/O RETIREMENT SERVICES OFFICE
FORT MYER, VIRGINIA 22211-1199

IMNE-MY-HRM-R

18 May 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Fort Myer Military Community (FMMC) Quarterly Retiree Council Meeting Minutes

1. The Fort Myer Military Community Retiree quarterly council meeting was held on Thursday, 12 May 2005, at Fort Myer, VA. The meeting convened at 1230 hours. The meeting was co-chaired by COL(R) Frank Cohn and SGM(R) Robert L. Brown Jr. The Council and Residents recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Attendees:

a. Members Present:

COL Cohn, Frank, (USA Ret.), Co-Chairperson
SGM — SGT Brown, Robert L. (USA Ret), Co-Chairperson
COL Greenfield, Arlene F., (USA Ret.)
COL Grier, Reginald C., (USA Ret.)
COL Howell, Leamon E., (USA Ret.)
COL Sievers, Ralph, H., (USA Ret.)
COL Washington, Robert E., (USA Ret.)
LTC Lemlich, Benjamin R., (USA Ret.)
LTC Strauss, George H., (USA Ret.)
MAJ Johnson, Andrew C., (USA Ret.)
SGM McCoy, Charles E., (USA Ret.)
MSG Schiebel, David W., (USA Ret.)
SFC Medley, Walter D., Jr., (USA Ret.)
SFC Wright, Joyce A., (USA Ret.)
Mrs. Werth, Hedy
Mrs. Murray, Joyce A.

b. Members Absent:

SGM Mueller, Grace L., (USA Ret.)
MSG Petersen, Earl A., (USA Ret.)
SFC Wright, Luke, (USA Ret.)
Mrs. Vance, Evelyn L.

c. Others Present:

Mr. John Russo, Acting Garrison Commander
Mr. Miller, James A., AG
Mr. Washington, Kenneth, J., Jr., Chief, CAO
Mr. Bonner, Kenneth CAO
Ms. Johnson, Earnestine, Retirement Services Officer
Mr. Baynes, Doyle, Regional Manager of Social Security Office

3. Opening Remarks:

a. COL Cohn made a few opening remarks and reviewed the minutes from the last council meeting. The chair moved that the minutes from the last council meeting be adopted, the motion carried. COL Cohn formally thanked Ms. Earnestine Johnson, the Fort Myer Retirement Services Officer (RSO), for her support and wished her well as she prepared for her retirement. Ms. Johnson thanked the Chair and the Council for their support throughout the years.

4. Remarks by Mr. John Russo, Acting Garrison Commander: Mr. Russo presented the council with an outstanding slide presentation on all of the construction projects that are planned and ongoing both on Fort Myer and McNair. The council was not aware of most of the construction and was very appreciative of receiving such a complete update. They asked if they could receive an annual update from the DPW as a matter of course in the future.

5. Remarks by Mr. Kenneth Washington, Chief Casualty and Mortuary Affairs: Mr. Washington presented a volunteer plaque from the Garrison Commander to the council expressed his thanks to the Council for their support for the Army's pilot program which utilizes retirees to perform as Casualty Assistance Officers (CAO) for survivors of retirees. Mr. Washington also introduced Mr. Doyle Baynes the Regional Manager of the Social Security office. Mr. Baynes presented the council with an outstanding slide presentation covering social security benefits and services. The briefing was very well received by the council.

6. Remarks by Mr. Miller, Direction of Human Resources:

a. The Fort Myer budget constraints could impact the Installation's ability to provide certain services. The Garrison Staff is working very hard to ensure quality service continues to be provided. However, every aspect of the budget is being reviewed to reduce waste and find savings through efficiencies.

b. The Fort Myer Retirement Service Office is fully operational. All repairs have been made and the new office furniture is in place. There is also a conference room for the executive council to meet

c. Retiree Appreciation Day funding was discussed with the council. The estimated cost for the event is 10,000. Funding for the event has been required through the Garrison. Approval is pending the availability of funding.

d. The FMMC web page is up and running. There will be a link for retiree issues on the FMMC main page in the near future.

e. The Garrison Commander has offered space in the installation news paper (Pentagram) for retiree issues. If the council have information they would like to share with the retiree community at large, they can develop a column called the "Retiree Corner".

5. Committee Reports:

a. Services: Be aware of possible reduction in some services due to budget constraints.

b. Army Family Action Plan. This fall, the council needs to be well represented. There are a number of issues that will affect the retiree community.

b. Medical:

(1) The council would like to look into the possibility of having a quarterly health care council meeting on Fort Myer. Initial coordination is being done to determine the level of interest on Fort Myer to conduct the quarterly meetings. There will be more to follow as information becomes available.

(2) The Fort Myer Senior fitness day initiative.

c. Legislative:

(1) The president's 06 Budget reduces appropriations for VA medical services.

(2) The free death benefit for deceased military personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq will probably be increased to a total of \$ 500,000 on a retroactive basis.

(3) Recently a high civilian DOD official stated, in effect, that military retiree benefits compete with active duty benefits and the latter should have precedence.

(4) Senator Corzine reintroduced a bill from the last Congress to liberalize the SPB widows' offset.

(5) A number of other bills in both Houses of Congress have been introduced that would benefit current and former service members, among them a further expansion of concurrent receipt authority. But their fate is uncertain due to the tight budget situation.

d. Communications:

(1) There are two retiree who would like to be presented with the Korean Service Medal. The council has decided to make the presentation part of the Retiree Appreciation Day activities.

(2) We have not locked in a speaker for the RAD at this time. There have been a number of names provided. We must make a decision on this soon.

(3) Now is the time to start gathering information for our next retiree bulletin. You must ensure the information meets the regulatory requirements to go into the bulletin. Please pass your articles to the communications chair.

6. SGM Brown provided the council with an outstanding back brief of the Chief of Staff Army Retiree Council Meeting. There were a number of initiative and issues that were raised to the council. The council was provided with a summery of all of the significant issues, attendees, and actions taken by the CSA Retiree Council. Well done SGM Brown.

6. Old Business:

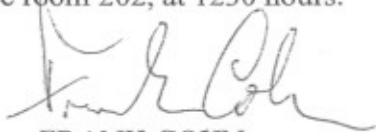
- a. Creating a retirement web page on the Fort Myer site is ongoing.
- b. Replacement for Ms. Johnson.

7. New Business: None.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1400 hours. The next meeting time and location is 11 August, in building 205, Conference room 202, at 1230 hours.



ROBERT L. BROWN JR.
SGM, USA Retired
Co-Chairperson, Retiree Council



FRANK COHN
Colonel, USA Retired
Co-Chairperson, Retiree Council

CF:
COL Allmon, Garrison Cdr., Fort Myer
Mr. Miller, AG, Fort Myer
HQDA, Army Retirement Services